

(a) whether concerned over the rising petroleum import bill, which takes away 10 per cent of country's GDP, the Centre has chalked out an ambitious plan for generating additional one lakh megawatts of renewable energy from a mix of wind, small hydro, bio-mass and bagasse by 2031-32;

(b) whether his Ministry has sought a budgetary support of Rs. 11,084 crore for research, development and deployment of renewable energy during Eleventh Five Year Plan period;

(c) whether the renewable energy policy prepared by his ministry has been modified and will be given final shape recently; and

(d) if so, when policy is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) It is envisaged that by the end of 15th Plan (2032) grid-interactive renewable power capacity could reach around 80,000 MW, with a corresponding share of 5 per cent in the then electricity-mix.

(b) A budgetary support of Rs. 1500 crore has been proposed for research, design and development in new and renewable energy during the 11th Plan period.

(c) and (d) An Expert Committee on Integrated Energy Policy constituted by the Planning Commission has submitted its report (IEPR) which covers all sources of energy, including new and renewable energy. This apart, this Ministry has also formulated a draft New & Renewable Energy Policy, which is placed on its website.

Potential for development of Solar Power Energy

3428. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that North East particularly Assam has a lot of potential for development of solar power energy;

(b) the number of projects which have been taken up and proposed to be undertaken in future in Assam, district-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has failed to familiarize the people about various schemes; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) The average solar radiation incident over the north eastern region, including Assam, is less in comparison to other parts of the country. Therefore, the north eastern region is better suited for harnessing other renewable energy sources like small hydropower and biomass.

(b) The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is implementing several programmes to promote use of solar energy devices and systems in the country including the north eastern region. On the basis of proposals received from the State agencies and the availability of funds, the Ministry allocates targets to the State nodal agencies. The eligibility, criteria and the quantum of support are different under different programmes. No district-wise targets are allocated by the Ministry to any of the State agencies including Assam.

During 2006-07 a total of 1,500 solar home lighting systems and 500 solar lanterns were allocated to Assam Renewable Energy Development Agency, Assam.

As on 31st March, 2007 a total of 5,870 solar home lighting systems, 711 solar lanterns, 98 solar street lighting systems, 4.5 kWp capacity stand alone solar photovoltaic plants, 45 solar pumps and 80 solar cookers have been installed in the state of Assam. In addition, to facilitate availability and after sales support for solar energy systems, 16 Rajiv Gandhi Akshaya Urja Shops have been set up in the north eastern States, of which one shop is located in Guwahati, Assam.

(c) and (d) The Ministry has successfully undertaken several initiatives to popularize various schemes among people. These initiatives include awareness campaign through electronic and print

media, booklets, leaflets, brochures, news letters, exhibitions, fairs on various renewable energy technologies, including solar energy schemes, in Hindi, English and regional languages all over the country. The Ministry is organizing Rajiv Gandhi Akshaya Urja Diwas in districts, metros and State capitals of the country on 20th August for wide publicity and awareness since 2004. District Advisory Committees on renewable energy have also been constituted in 560 districts for coordination and awareness creation of renewable energy systems/programmes at district level. Renewable Energy Clubs have been established in several Engineering Colleges for raising awareness among students.

Potential and generation of Non-Conventional Energy Sources

3429. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total potential and generation of each of non-conventional energy sources in the country particularly in Rajasthan;

(b) whether a number of non-conventional energy sources proposals from Rajasthan are pending with Government for clearance; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when these projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Details of estimated potential and achievements in grid-interactive renewable power in the country and Rajasthan, as on 31.03.2007 are given in the Statement (See below).

(b) and (c) Proposals from State Governments, including Rajasthan, for the grant of central financial assistance under the schemes/programmes of the Ministry are received on a regular basis. At times, these proposals are found to be incomplete or not in line with the provisions of the schemes/programmes. Complete proposals are considered and approved subject to budget provisions.